

RCSD CURRENT UPDATES

Volume 1 / Issue 1

Happy Spring from your community services district!

RCSD MISSION:

To provide efficient, cost effective, and reliable community services in a manner that protects health, safety and the natural environment.

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Think before you flush!

We are happy to announce our new website – redwaycsd.org – is up and running. Sign up for emergency alerts and receive storm, flood, wildfire, and earthquake warnings, as well as District updates.

Water Conservation

After abundant rainfall and even a little snow this past winter, the South Fork of the Eel River is looking beautifully full. Hopefully we will continue to get some rainfall into late Spring. Currently, Redway rainfall is at more than 100% of the annual average (October 1 through September 30th) total.

Although things are looking good locally right now, and although former governor Jerry Brown declared an end to California's historic drought in April of 2017, we don't know when the next drought will occur. It appears that the cyclical nature of California's climate portends future periods of drought – even under the most optimistic scenarios.

In recent years concerns about the viability of aquatic habitat in the South Fork of the Eel River have only increased. The South Fork faces drought conditions most summers that challenge the viability of local aquatic species such as salmon, eel, and mussels.

That said, climate change may create additional challenges beyond the historical cycles on record. One such challenge is the growing number of wildfires. With more than 8,500 fires and over 100 fatalities, the 2018 wildfire season was the most devastating season on record in California history.

In recognition that drought and low river flows call on all residents in the South Fork Eel watershed to be responsible water users and to prepare for potential water shortages RCSD has taken its Water Shortage Contingency Plan and formalized its key elements in **RCSD's Conservation Ordinances**.

The Conservation Ordinances will require filling of pools and auxiliary water tanks prior to July 1st as well as certain state mandated restrictions applicable throughout the year.

Additional voluntary restrictions will be requested as river flows fall below a certain point.

As river flows or RCSD capacity limit availability of water -- or if there are state wide mandates -- initial voluntary restrictions will become mandatory.

As conditions worsen additional restriction on water use will apply.

The full Conservation Ordinance is available to review on the RCSD website redwaycsd.org, or at the RCSD office.



The infiltration gallery in the South Fork of the Eel River

Staff and Board News

As some of you may already know, we've had some staff changes and additions.

In October, 2018 both John Rogers, the RCSD General Manager, and Cody Cox, RCSD Operations Manager, left the District for other pursuits. For John it was retirement, and for Cody it was a job with CalFire.

TK Williams was hired in the dual capacity of General and Operations Manager, replacing both John and Cody. TK has two engineering degrees, one from UC Davis and another from Humboldt State. In addition to his academic credentials, he has many years of very relevant experience. The District is truly lucky to have him on board.

TK has lived in the county for more than 22 years. He and his family live in Southern Humboldt.

Another Southern Humboldt resident, Andrew Sawboh, was hired by the District in January as a Utility Worker I. He has joined Doug Esget, Calvin Chaille, and Dan Smith in the field, doing repairs, maintenance, meter-reading, and more.

The District has a five-member Board of Directors: Art McClure, Chairperson; Dian Griffith, Vice Chair; Linda Sutton, Michael McKaskle, and Scott Kender.

In order to increase voter participation and cut election costs for both the RCSD and Humboldt County Office of Elections, the Board adopted a resolution to reschedule the District's elections to coincide with the statewide general elections, which are held in June and November of even-numbered years.

As a result, Dian Griffith and Scott Kender have terms that end in December of 2022. The other three board members' terms will expire in December of 2020.

RCSD Capacity and Waiting List for New Developments

In August 2014 Waterworks Engineering completed a Capacity Analysis for the RCSD board. The analysis indicated that RCSD was at or near capacity

RCSD capacity to provide water and sewer services to the Redway Service Area is impacted by several different variables.

Water services

- 1) The volume of water available to RCSD from the South Fork of the Eel River and the "Unnamed" Redway Spring.
- 2) The technical capacity of RCSD infrastructure to pump and treat water to regulatory standards.
- 3) The technical ability to distribute that water to the RCSD Service Area
- 4) The demand for water from RCSD residential and commercial customers.



Please slow down and stay in the cone zone when you see one of RCSD staff out in the field

Wastewater services

- 1) The technical capacity of RCSD's wastewater treatment plant to treat wastewater from RCSD customers.
- 2) The type of waste that is introduced into RCSD's collection system.
- 3) The volume of water that is introduced into RCSD's collection system during stormy periods with significant surface flows and high ground water levels.

Multiple Living Unit Requirements

Many homes in Redway have more than one living unit on a single parcel and/or using a single account – sometimes for an aging family member and sometimes as an additional source of income as a unit rental.

However, determination of Significant Impact and/or modification of connections to provide for a detached "Accessory Dwelling Unit" (ADU) or other multiple dwelling units on a single parcel may require installation of an individual unit meter and/or payment of a separate connection charge for each newly constructed detached ADU or other multiple dwelling unit on a single parcel under single ownership.

An "ADU" consists of a separate dwelling unit that is either attached to and located within the living area of an existing dwelling, or detached but located on the same lot as the existing dwelling. The floor area of an ADU may not exceed 50% of the existing living area or 1200 sq. ft.

Current Cannabis Policy

Current commercial cannabis processing facilities are being treated within the commercial account framework at RCSD – there are no special fees or requirements at this time. This

approach is based on the requirement that no cannabis residues, cleaning agents, solvents or plant matter will be flushed or drained into RCSD's collection system. Violations of these requirements is a violation of RCSD's Water and Sewer Ordinances with significant consequences for both residential and commercial accounts.

RCSD staff monitors the collection system and lift stations on a daily basis. Cannabis (and other) residues are readily discerned when present and create additional work for RCSD to maintain full flow conditions in the collection system and prevent buildup leading to flow restrictions or blockages. Staff is required to trace the source of any apparent residues or violations of RCSD's disposal ordinances to the source or sources.

Local restaurants have all installed grease traps to prevent fats, oils and grease from entering the collection system. While residential customers are not required to install grease traps, judicious disposal of cooking oils and grease can help keep costs down and waste treatment capacity available for other purposes.

Credit Cards

We now accept major credit cards. Stop by with your card, pay by phone, or pay online by going to redwaycsd.org. A \$3.00 convenience fee will be applied for phone and online payments.

Contact information

We cannot stress enough the importance of providing us with current contact information **in case of an emergency**. Ideally we'd like to have both a current phone number and email address. **Or, subscribe to redwaycsd.org and get emergency alerts!!!**

Taking the long view

No one has a crystal ball that can predict future water and sewer needs for the Redway CSD Service Area.

Will the area experience a sudden burst of growth in residential homes? Commercial businesses? Will the South Fork of the Eel slip into the gravel every August or September? Will increasing temperatures and nutrients in the system spoil water quality with cyano toxins?

Most of California addresses their water needs through massive storage projects or ground water pumping. A city or district service area may have 3 years of supply stored when reservoirs are filled during wet years. As reservoir levels fall during dry cycles, conservation efforts throughout the summer and winter can extend the supply available for a considerable amount of time.

RCSD has no access to such significant storage resources. RCSD's dependence on river flows from the South Fork of the Eel creates a very different dynamic. Water conserved by customers after the first rains of fall have little to no impact on the water that will be available for district the following summer.

RCSD's current response to potential water shortages is threefold:

- Increased storage
- Additional upslope groundwater sources
- Increased conservation among RCSD customers and constituents

Be a Good Neighbor: Please think before you flush!

RCSD collection system only treats limited types of waste: Pee, Poo and Paper – the three P's.

RCSD's sewer collection system is NOT designed to accept any of the following elements:

- 1) Hazardous waste of any kind: paints, oils, cleaning agents, etc.
- 2) "Flushable" wipes or diapers.
- 3) Fabrics of any kind.
- 4) Plastic bags or food wrappers.
- 5) Cannabis oils, cleaning agents, solvents or plant residues.
- 6) Fats, oils or grease.

Disposal of any these elements into RCSD's collection system can result in significant additional expenses for the district—*costs which will necessarily be passed on to you and your neighbors in increased rates*—and is in violation of RCSD ordinances.



Questions? Contact Us:

Redway Community Services District

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Email: redwaycsd@gmail.com

Website: redwaycsd.org

RCSD Meetings

The RCSD Board meets the third Wednesday of the month, every month:

6:30 PM at the Redway CSD Office,
1150 Evergreen Road #2 Redway, Ca.
in the Meadows Business Park

REDWAY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

PO Box 40

Redway, CA 95560

Recipient Name

Street Address

City, ST ZIP Code